

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 2828**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Salas**

February 22, 2008

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An act to add Section 703 to the Military and Veterans Code, relating to military and veterans, and making an appropriation therefor.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2828, as introduced, Salas. Veterans' Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Fund.

Existing law provides benefits for state military veterans.

This bill would require the Department of Veterans Affairs to submit a grant application to the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) for the purposes of funding community-based organizations, certified by the department, to provide substance abuse and mental health services to veterans.

This bill would require that all grant money awarded to the department by SAMHSA be deposited into the Veterans' Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Fund, a special fund the bill would create, and from which money would be continuously appropriated to the department for purposes of funding community-based organizations that provide substance abuse and mental health programs that would benefit California veterans and to pay reasonable administrative expenses. By authorizing the expenditure of moneys from a continuously appropriated fund, this bill would make an appropriation.

This bill would also require the department to develop a process by which to certify community-based organizations that receive funding, and require the department to establish criteria of success for the

purposes of determining renewal of funding to those community-based organizations.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: yes. Fiscal committee: yes.  
State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. Section 703 is added to the Military and Veterans  
2 Code, to read:

3 703. (a) The department shall submit a grant application to  
4 the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services  
5 Administration (SAMHSA) for the purposes of funding  
6 community-based organizations certified by the department to  
7 provide substance abuse and mental health services to veterans.

8 (b) All grant money awarded to the department by SAMHSA,  
9 and any interest earned thereon, shall be deposited into the  
10 Veterans' Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Fund,  
11 which is hereby created as a special fund in the State Treasury.  
12 Notwithstanding Section 13340 of the Government Code, moneys  
13 in the fund shall be continuously appropriated to the department,  
14 without regard to fiscal year, for purposes of funding  
15 community-based organizations that provide substance abuse and  
16 mental health programs that, in the discretion of the secretary,  
17 would benefit California veterans and to pay reasonable  
18 administrative expenses.

19 (c) (1) The department shall determine how to allocate and  
20 disburse funds in the Veterans' Substance Abuse and Mental Health  
21 Services Fund to community-based organizations. The funds  
22 disbursed shall be used only for the purposes of providing  
23 substance abuse and mental health services to veterans, including,  
24 but not limited to, the treatment of post-traumatic stress disorder.

25 (2) The department shall develop a certification process by  
26 which to certify community-based organizations that receive  
27 funding pursuant to this section. The department is authorized to  
28 adopt certification standards or conditions that may be required  
29 by SAMHSA. Only community-based organizations certified by  
30 the department shall be eligible for funding.

31 (d) Community-based organizations that receive funds pursuant  
32 to this section shall annually prepare a report on the programs and  
33 services supported by those funds. The report shall be submitted

- 1 to the department for the purposes of determining renewal of
- 2 funding to a community-based organization, based upon criteria
- 3 for success for measuring established by the department.

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